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LAFAYETTE VISTAS

New Police Position Strengthens Traffic Enforcement Efforts

State legislation that went into effect this spring will result in a greater portion of traffic fines being returned to the City beginning in July 1998. In anticipation of the potential source of revenue, the City Council approved using the resources to finance a new traffic enforcement position.

Welcome Tom Padilla

"We're glad to have someone who can concentrate on enforcing traffic laws, especially in those areas where accidents are occurring with greater frequency," says Mike Ilg, Police Services Manager. "And while the extra traffic officer is an added resource for ticketing speeders, we will also work to educate the motoring public, reducing accidents with their help."

Statistics indicate that speeding is particularly frequent and flagrant along specific commute-time arteries including Moraga Rd. between St. Mary's Rd. and Mt. Diablo Blvd., and Deerhill, Pleasant Hill and Happy Valley Roads. Additional efforts will focus on enforcing speed limits in residential areas and improving compliance with the new state school bus red light law.

Speak Out About Public Safety

The City Council will hold a special public safety workshop at 7:00pm on July 13th at the Manzanita Room of the Lafayette Community Center to hear public comments regarding police, fire and paramedic services.

In June, Brad Senden, of the Center for Community Opinion, conducted a telephone survey of residents' satisfaction level with and willingness to pay extra taxes for police patrol services. His findings, as well as options for consolidating police and fire services within the City or in conjunction with Orinda and Moraga, will be discussed at the workshop. Attend the workshop and share your thoughts about this important issue. You may also direct written and oral comments to City staff.

City Focuses on Traffic Issues

Living in the San Francisco Bay Area means living with traffic congestion. Over the past few years, however, the City of Lafayette has taken a number of steps to relieve congestion at key intersections during high use periods, as well as to prevent congestion brought on by new development.

Lafayette's worst congestion occurs at key intersections including Moraga Road at Brook and School Streets, Mt. Diablo Blvd. at Moraga Road, and Mt. Diablo Blvd. at Oak Hill Road. Over the past year, the City has conducted a number of studies, including the Downtown Feasibility Study, the Moraga Road Corridor Traffic Study, and the Moraga Road Bike and Pedestrian Study to explore options which would alleviate these traffic choke points.

As a result of these studies, the City Council has decided to implement a series of major roadway improvements over the next three years. The Downtown road changes will cost up to $4 million, and will include the addition of a third east-bound lane on Mt. Diablo Blvd. at Moraga Road, the closure of Plaza Way (see next page) and signal modifications and synchronization on Moraga Road.

Lamorinda Transportation Mitigation Fee

Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda have also recently joined together to institute a fee program that makes new development pay for its traffic impacts. The Lamorinda Project Management Committee, a board of elected officials that studies traffic impacts from the town of Moraga to Highway 24, proposed the Lamorinda Transportation Mitigation Fee, which was adopted by the City Council and became effective at the end of June.

The fee, to be paid by new residential and commercial development before a building permit is issued, will provide revenue for new capital improvement projects needed due to the new development. Projects may include road, bikeway and pedestrian safety improvements in the Lamorinda area. The project list will be updated as new traffic needs and priorities are determined, and revenues are received.

Burton Valley Community Effort

A committee of Burton Valley neighbors has drafted a Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan with the goal of slowing traffic speeds within their residential area to the 25 mph limit. Neighborhood residents worked with the Circulation Commission to develop a plan to address the increasing number of complaints about speeding and requests for stop signs and speed humps.

The development of neighborhood traffic plans, which include education, enforcement and engineering, has become common in other cities, including Danville and San Ramon. The Burton Valley plan was presented to the City's Circulation Commission on June 29 and will be heard by City Council in July.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD

Downtown Lafayette is looking better than ever! A number of downtown improvement projects, including the elimination of unsightly overhead electric lines along Mt. Diablo Blvd. and the installation of classic street lights, have already been completed. Here's news about other Small Town DownTown projects.

PLAZA PARK REDESIGN – The City Council has signaled its intent to redesign Plaza Park to create an exciting and attractive recreational feature in the heart of downtown Lafayette. Proposed plans include abandoning Plaza Way and expanding the park to the steps of the businesses located there. This, and the realignment of Golden Gate Way closer to the 76 gas station, and at a right angle to Mt. Diablo Blvd., will double the size of the park located at Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd. and afford opportunities for outdoor dining and sitting. On-street parking will be retained on the eastern side of the park, with preliminary studies indicating a potential net gain of 6 parking spaces for a total of 20 spaces. The redevelopment plan also calls for the eventual improvement and restoration of the facades of three historical buildings that border the park. Final plans for the park redesign will be determined after a series of community workshops that will incorporate the needs of local businesses, the Lafayette Historical Society, the City and other interested parties. Construction will be done during the Spring/Summer 1999 construction season.

A GREENER DOWNTOWN – As part of the SmallTown DownTown beautification process, the City will be planting trees along Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road this year. The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce kicked off the program with the slogan "50 trees for 50 years" and a $20,000 donation to celebrate its 50th anniversary. On May 15, nine trees were planted in the Mt. Diablo Blvd. median between Happy Valley Road and Dewing Avenue. Pledges have also been received for planting 62 additional trees; these will be planted in October.

NEW VOLUNTEER SAFETY PATROL – Council has approved a plan to use resident volunteers to act as extra "eyes and ears" for the Police department. These volunteers will wear a uniform, patrol the downtown on foot, and report any unusual, suspicious or emergency situations they encounter. Volunteers will report damage to City signs, distribute crime bulletins, assist with neighborhood watch meetings, phone check on "shut-ins" and assist in police vehicle maintenance. If you would like to be a part of this new volunteer group, call Community Services Officer, Cathy Surges, 284-5010 for information on qualifications and training.

ON-GOING EFFORTS – Additional projects include the installation of carved wood City of Lafayette signs at major entry ways to the City. The first of many signs went up in June at the intersection of Olympic Blvd. and Pleasant Hill Road, and at the Oak Hill Road freeway off-ramp. The City also plans to mark this year's winter holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Years with the installation of twinkle lights along the median of Mt. Diablo Blvd.

TIDBITS.....

SUMMER CREEK MAINTENANCE – Despite our seemingly endless El Niño winter and spring, there were no reports of flooding caused by neglected private creeks in Lafayette this year. A special thanks to residents who worked last fall to ready their creeks for the rainy season, and a reminder that summer is the time to work on retaining walls and soil stabilization projects for next year. If you have questions about winterizing your creek, call the City's Engineering Technician, Rick Grimes, at 284-1951.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION MEETINGS – The DRC is now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, at 7:30pm in the Lupine Room at the Community Center. The current Commission is comprised of structural and landscape architects and interior designers who are Lafayette residents. Responsible for reviewing proposals for new structures and exterior changes to existing structures within the City, this dedicated group of professionals evaluates building design, materials and color schemes, and reviews plans for parking, setbacks and landscaping. Recommendations regarding proposed projects are forwarded to the Planning Commission for final approval.

VOLUNTEER WEBPAGE HOST & DEVELOPER EARN PRAISE – Special thanks to Tim McCreery, who has been hosting the government portion of the Lafayette webpage at no cost to the City. If you've misplaced your copy of VISTAS, or simply want to refer back to previous issues, you'll find the current and past year's issues on the webpage at **www.ci.lafayette.ca.us,** thanks to volunteer software consultant Dave Briccetti.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS – In order to encourage more efficient use of all of Lafayette's lockbox parking by BART riders and carpoolers, lockbox parking fees on First St. have been reduced from $2 to $1, and increased from $2 to $3 on Happy Valley Road and Oak Hill Road.

"SPARE THE AIR" CAMPAIGN – The City of Lafayette has joined with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to promote the 1998 "Spare the Air" Cities program. Vehicles emit pollutants that form ozone; and even though it is invisible and odorless, it is not harmless. Viable alternatives to driving include walking, biking, transit and carpooling. For commute alternatives, call RIDES For Bay Area Commuters, 1-800-755-7665. For info on the City of Lafayette "Spare the Air" program, contact Lisa Sanchez at 275-2296.

NEW "PARK & RIDE" LOT – To encourage and assist carpoolers, the City will construct its first "park and ride" lot this summer. To be located on St. Mary's Road at the south end of Lafayette Community Park, it will provide approximately 81 spots for organized and casual carpooling. A drop-off location equipped with a shelter is part of the project, as are walkways and landscaping.

Show Your Pride!

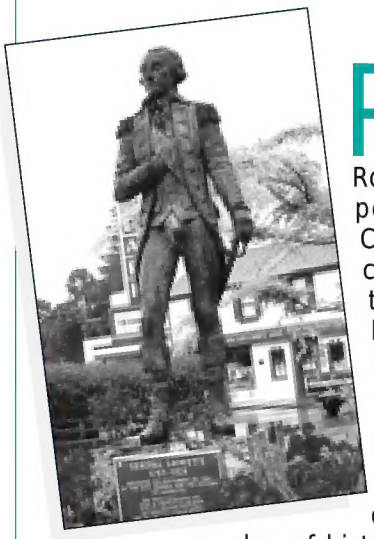
Have you been wondering where to find the Lafayette Sesquicentennial sweat shirts folks are wearing around town? Or perhaps you'd like a Lafayette Sesquicentennial license plate holder? Items featuring the Sesquicentennial logo, including golf shirts, commemorative pins, limited edition Postal Cachet envelopes and more, are available at the Lafayette Library, the Lafayette Bookstore at 3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd., or at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at 100 Lafayette Circle, #103. For more information, call 284-1968, ext. 150.

Sesquicentennial Celebration and Art & Wine Festival

A special joint celebration featuring Lafayette's Sesquicentennial and the Chamber-sponsored 3rd annual Art & Wine Festival is scheduled for September 18-19-20. Music and storytelling will kick-off the weekend on Friday evening. On Saturday and Sunday, you'll be able to pan for gold at an authentic gold rush encampment, and take a walking tour of historic Lafayette. The Kids Corral will feature old-time craft activities and covered wagon rides. Stroll downtown and visit the local artists' booths, listen to live music and sample fine wines and microbrews. Enjoy the special Sesquicentennial parade on Sunday.

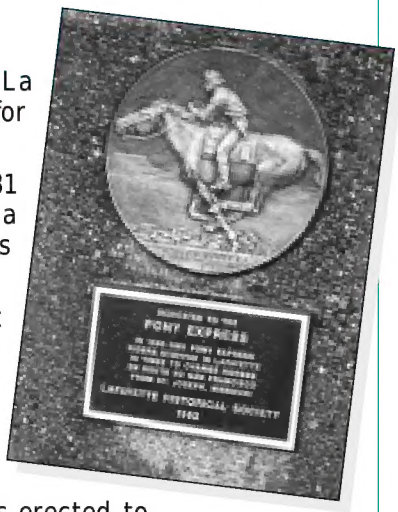
We're making it easy for you to invite friends and family from out-of-town to the Sesquicentennial Celebration/Art & Wine Festival! A shuttle will run from the BART parking lot to downtown, and the Lafayette Park Hotel will offer a special weekend rate for overnight guests. More details and a schedule of events will be available at the end of the summer.

Historic Plaza Park



Plaza Park, the historic, geographic, and symbolic center of Lafayette at Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd., and perhaps the oldest park in California, was deeded to the citizens of Lafayette in 1864 by the town founder, Elam Brown. Designated a California Point of Historical Interest in 1970, and an Historic Landmark in 1976, it still serves as a visual focal point for the City. Three buildings of historical significance border the park and a number of historic markers are reminders of Lafayette's once small scale village character, including:

- **The Way Side Inn,** at 3521 Golden Gate Way, was erected in 1894 as a hotel and tavern. It has also served the community as a meat market, ice cream parlor, dress shop, beauty salon, several barbershops, a temporary Greyhound Bus Depot, insurance office, private home and antique shop.
- **The Pioneer Store,** at 3535 Plaza Way, was built in 1862 by Benjamin Shreve. It was the site of the town's first Post Office; Shreve named the town La Fayette when he applied for the postal permit.
- **The Geils Building,** at 3531 Plaza Way, was built as a saloon, but over the years housed several businesses.
- A **grist mill wheel** that may have originated in the mill of Elam Brown, is marked with a plaque dedicated in 1955 by the Lafayette Lions Club.



- In 1982, a **flagpole** was erected to honor Lafayette War Veterans by the parents of Timothy A. Thomas, who died in Vietnam.
- A plaque dedicated by the Lafayette Historical Society in 1991 commemorates the fact that **Pony Express** riders stopped in Lafayette 19 times to change horses in route to San Francisco from St. Joseph, MO in 1860 and 1861.
- A statue of General Lafayette (1757-1834) was dedicated by the City Council in 1991, and is an exact replica of one in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Sesquicentennial Lafayette Sesquicentennial 1848 — 1998 150th Anniversary

City Directory

Leave your Council Members a message!
Call 284-1968

Officers		EXT.
Anne Grodin	**Mayor**	**273**
Erling Horn	**Vice Mayor**	**271**
Ivor Samson	**Council Member**	**272**
Jay Strauss	**Council Member**	**270**
Donald L. Tatzin	**Council Member**	**274**

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

Staff Contacts

General Reception and
City Manager, Steven Falk **284-1968**

Administrative Services

Rebecca Lee, Director	**299-3227**
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	**299-3213**
Sue Jusaitis, City Clerk	**299-3212**
Donna Feehan, Accounting Assist.	**299-3226**
Celina Tomas, Accounting Assist.	**299-3249**

Community Development

Niroop Srivatsa, Director **299-3207**

Engineering Services

Tony Coe, Manager	**299-3203**
Farzaneh Sanders, Assoc. Engineer	**299-3209**
Matt Luttropp, Assoc. Engineer	**299-3214**
Ron Lefler, Assoc. Engineer	**299-3244**
Mike Moran, Assist. Engineer	**299-3245**
Julia DosSantos, Admin. Tech.	**299-3240**
Rick Grimes, Engineering Tech.	**299-3218**

Parks and Recreation **284-2232**

Jennifer Russell, Director
Brian McCooey, Coordinator
Yvonne Ozario, Senior Services **284-5050**

Planning Services **284-1976**

Mike Henn, Manager **Fax: 284-1122**
Betsy Van Popering, Senior Planner
Ashley Nguyen, Transportation Planner
Greg Wolff, Assistant Planner
Joanne Contreras, Assistant Planner

Public Works Services **284-1968**

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst **284-1968**

City Offices **Fax: 284-3169**

Street Address: **3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210**
Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 1968**
Lafayette, CA 94549-1968
E-mail: **lafay1968@aol.com**
Homepage URL: **www.ci.lafayette.ca.us**

Police Services

Police Business: **284-5010**
Police Emergency: **911**

Around Town

July 12 **CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE –** Lafayette's 28th annual show and fundraiser for local charities and the Chamber of Commerce. Inspect beautiful vintage autos and bump into long-time neighbors and friends. Info: Chamber of Commerce, 284-7407.

July 13 **COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC SAFETY –** Police, fire and paramedic services will be discussed including possible consolidation of services and/or additional taxes. 7:00 pm, Manzanita Room, Lafayette Community Center.

July 14 **BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION –** Celebrate Bastille Day by bringing your picnic to the Reservoir and join in the French dancing and music. 4:00 until Sunset. East side picnic area. Langeac Society, sponsor.

Sept. 18-20 **SESQUICENTENNIAL PARADE & EVENTS** – Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Yankee settlers in Lafayette in 1848. Events continue through the weekend in downtown Lafayette, culminating with a parade on the 20th.

Sept. 19-20 **LAFAYETTE 3RD ANNUAL ART & WINE FESTIVAL –** Stroll downtown, sip a fine cabernet, sample a micro-brewed beer, enjoy the work of local artists and live music. Info: Chamber of Commerce, 284-7407.

Oct 25 **LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN –** Kids, parents and grandparents, enjoy participating in one of California's most beautiful runs through downtown Lafayette and around the Reservoir. Benefits go to local schools and to Chamber events. Info: Chamber of Commerce, 284-7407.

Parks & Recreation Activities - 284-2232

SUMMER SHOWS – Wed: 1:00 pm, Stanley School – $2.50/person
JULY 15: Jean-Paul the "Master of Balance"
JULY 22: Puppet Show "The Frog Princess"
JULY 29: Masks & Mime

TRIPS FOR TEENS – (6th-12th grade) Call 284-2232 to register.
JULY 23: WATERWORLD: 9:45 am – 5:30 pm; $30
JULY 30: MARINE WORLD: 8:00 am – 9:00 pm; $30
AUGUST 6: RIVER RAFTING: 7:00 am – 9:00 pm; $89
AUGUST 14: MAGIC MOUNTAIN: 4:00 am – 11:00 pm; $45
AUGUST 20: SANTA CRUZ: 8:30 am – 9:00 pm; $30

SUMMER FUN: 7/13 – 7/31; 9:00 am to Noon; Burton Valley and Stanley Schools. Info: 284-9512.

ADVENTURE CAMP: 7/13 – 7/31; Noon to 5:00 pm; Stanley School. Info 284-9512

← Clip and save for future reference.

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